

OUR GARDEN FRIENDS THE BUGS. Allan W. Forbes. Illustrated by Lili Réthi, F.R.S.A. Exposition Press, N. Y., published June 1962, 190 pp., price \$4.00.

Entomologists often look longingly to the past when observation of nature was a common avocation and when amateurs spent their leisure hours studying insect life in gardens and woodlands. These hobbyists gave their support to conservation movements and to professional advances.

This small book, written by an amateur, follows this tradition. It makes a strong plea for more study of the biology and food habits of insects and for biological rather than chemical insect control. Its author, Allan W. Forbes, is a retired engineer who has watched "the bugs" and has successfully staged a one-man stand for biological control of his small garden plot. Many of the garden insects are discussed. Common names abound, but deviation from approved designations sometimes leads to confusion.

The tendency of the author to interpret insect and animal behavior anthropomorphically and to form strong opinions about these creatures without scientific proof is a detracting element in Mr. Forbes' presentation.

The illustrations by Lili Réthi are placed at appropriate intervals through the text and are adequate. Most of them are habitat sketches.—J. FORBES

THE STRANGE LIVES OF FAMILIAR INSECTS. Edwin Way Teale. Illustrated with photographs by the author and drawings by Su Zan Swain. Dodd, Mead & Company, published October 1962, 208 pp., price \$4.00.

Edwin Way Teale has dedicated this latest book "to J. Henri Fabre, whose books opened the door to popular interest in the living insects." This new volume is another contribution to the continuing effort to keep that door wide open. The printed page takes one on a leisurely trip through woods and fields to the habitats of familiar insects. The writing stems from a sensitivity to nature and happily combines enthusiasm for the insect world with scientific fact. Amateurs will find learning about insects a pleasant adventure; the more-experienced will enjoy a visit with some old acquaintances in a fresh format.